a single item of that. So, don't play mischief, don't indulge in gimmicks. Be straightforward. This is not proper functioning of the Government. So, I want to know from you, when are you going to stop these FIRs, these committees and this wavering?

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: The grounding was a political decision, not a technical decision ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir let him reply to me.

SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN: Sir I have great regard and respect for my senior Shri Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Everybody has got respect and you misbehave, go to court and file FIRs and the reputation of my party is unnecessarily damaged.

SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN: Sir, I appreciate his concern and anguish because. it is not only now when he is sitting on the Opposition Benches, but even when he was sitting on the Treasury Benches, he was again and again trying to draw the attention of the Government and emphasizing about enforcement of safety standards in the Indian Airlines; he has been doing that. It is not a question of wavering it is a serious question. As I stated earlier, it is...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tell them that you are not wavering.

SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN: Rs. 2,500 crores have been spent on the one hand and, on the other, the question of safety of passengers is involved. So. we will have to go into every question in detail and then come to a decision.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 2.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: When is it going to be decided?

...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 2. Twenty-four minutes have gone already.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: And I don't get a chance.

Action for recovery of overcharged Amounts on combiflame

*2. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1445 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th March, 1990 and state:

(a) when M/s. Carews Pharmaceuticals was asked to furnish details in respect of Combiflame and when his Ministry received these details;

(b) when the Drugs Controller of West Bengal was asked to take legal action against the company and what progress has so far been made in this direction;

(c) when did the violation come to the notice of his Ministry for the first time; and

(d) by when action against the company is ilkely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) In August, 1988, it was brought to the notice of the Government that M|s. Carews Pharmaceuticals Ltd., a SSI unit were marketing Cambiflame tablets in cooperation with an organised company without any price approval under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1987. The matter was examined in detail by the Government and it was noted that the company was not eligible for any exemption, for being a SSI unit, from price control under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1987. As such, on 20-7-1989 the Company

was informed that they were not eligible for price exemption under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987. On the same date, the Directorate of Drugs Control, Govt. of West Bengal were requested to take legal action against the Company. The Company informed that they have implemented the price fixed by the Government w.e.f. August, 1989. In order to workout the amount of unintended benefit on Combiflam tablets earned by the Company prior to August 1989, M|s. Carews Pharmaceuticals were asked on 6-9-1989 to furnish details of quantity sold and price charged etc., which are awaited. The Directorate of Drugs Control, West Bengal have recently been advised to take action under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1987 against the company if they do not furnish the required details to the Government.

As per para 26 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order 1987, any contravention of any of the provisions of the said order shall be punishable in accordance with the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (10 of 1955). All efforts are being made to settle the issues in the minimum possible time.

श्री बेकल उत्साही : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जो जवाब सभापटल पर रखा है वह बिलकुल गैर-इत्मीनानबख्श और कंफ्यूजन वाला है। समझ में नहीं आता कि उसमें इंकार भी है, इकरार भी है। मैं क्या सवाल इनसे करूं, लेकिन थोड़ा सा अपने फैले हुए सवाल में से मुक्तसर एक सवाल कर रहा हूं जिसकी जानकारी मंत्री महोदय दें। क्या यह सही है कि कंपनी सरकार के द्वारा निर्धारित 10 गोलियों के पत्ते पर रु० 4.15 प्रति पत्ता 5-11-86 उपभोक्ताओं से ज्यादा चार्ज करती ही है? यदि हां, तो सरकार ने अब तक इस पैसे की वसूली के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की है? यह मेरा पहला सवाल है।

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: There is no confusion so far as the reply is concerned. But it is obvious that we are on the question of drugs, and of late this House is being treated by too much of drugging. May I answer this question? We have fixed up the price for this particular drug, and the company, M/s Carews Pharmaceuticals Ltd. has been maintaining that it does not come under price control or price approval because it is a small company, it is an SSI company. We have not agree to that. We have said that it comes under price control and we have also fixed the price. They did not adhere to the price earlier, but they have of late said that they would conform to the price fixed by us. But, Sir, the question of collecting the arrears, excess charged earlier is being looked into by the Ministry.

श्री बेकल उत्साही : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने जो मूल्य निर्धारित किया, वह कंपनी नहीं मान रही है। यह अप्स एंड डाउंस तो हमको देखने ही पड़ते हैं। लेकिन असल बात जो है उसको मंत्री महोदय नजर अंदाज कर रहे हैं। राज के रूप से यह पर्दा उठाते ही नहीं हैं, जो बात पूछते हैं उसको बताते ही नहीं हैं। मैं एक बात और पूछ रहा हूं कि इस कंपनी ने पिछले 3 सालों में कितना ओवरचार्ज किया है, यह जानकारी हासिल करने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाया है? यह जानकारी कब तक मिलने की उम्मीद है?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, the figure is being calculated, and we have called for information from this company. It has not supplied the information. We have asked the Government of West Bengal also to collect all the information from their side and supply that information. So, the information is being collected. After we collect the information, I am prepared to come to the House and inform the House accordingly.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Sir, I am surprised to hear the reply of the hon. Minister. He has already got the

difference in prices, and he has admitted in his reply in Rajya Sabha on the 24th of April|Aug. 1989 that the company is charging about Rs. 4.50 per strip extra. This works out to Rs. 3 crores per annum. I would like to know from the hon Minister the exact time when he is going to realise this amount the figure which his debt has already got in his file. He has already replied in this House on the 24th of April|Aug. 1989 that this amount has been worked out. How he is saying today that it has not been worked out?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, all the amounts that have been worked out in the Ministry are tentative. They are tentative because full information, all the details are not available with us So, we have issued notice to the company to supply all the information, and the last notice has been issued on the 10th of this month itself. Therefore, we are awaiting the full information, all the details.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: You have already calculated it and given this to the House. You have replied about it in this House.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, in the past the company was charging Rs. 12|- per ten-tablet strip. We have fixed the price later on, lowered the price. The company took shelter under the SSI. That is, they said that they are a small company and that they are manufeaturing it in their own factory in their own name. We have disputed that. We have not agreed. We have not accepted that figure at all. Therefore, we have issued the show-cause notice to the company. If they fail to give all the information, we are going to prosecute them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Implementation of drug prices

*3. SHRI G. SWAMY NAIK:
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 88 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1990 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that drug companies have not yet implemented the reduced prices;

(b) if so, what is the implementaaion position of the prices of finished medicines of each company; and

(c) how many companies have not yet implemented the prices and what steps have been taken to get these prices implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c) After fixation of prices of formulations based on 21 bulk drugs which have been recently brought under price control, certain review applications, under para 24 of the DPCO, 1987 have been received from the concerned drug manufacturing companies which are under examination. However, the companies are required to follow the price fixed by the Government, review petitions not withstanding. One company has however stated, that pending a decision by the Government on their review application, they are not implementing the Government's price and maintaining *status quo*. The company has been asked to follow the price fixed by the Government. Telegrams have been issued to the State authorities to as certain and report the compliance of the prices fixed to the Government.

पूर्वोत्तर क्षेत्र में विमान सेवा में सुधार

*4. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) असम, अरुणाचल प्रदेश मेघालय, त्रिपुरा और मिजोरम के पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में विमान यात्रियों की संख्या को देखते हुए सरकार उड़ानों की संख्या बढ़ाने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है;